

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

February 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Damian Gregory at 1:45 pm. Introductions were done. The agenda and the minutes for January 2009 were accepted.

Attendance: Ronald Fulton, Dr. Sam Kohlenberg, Damian Gregory, Jose Martinez, John Miller, Jose Granda, Jackson David, Dr. Manoel Olivera, Denise Valkema , Marilyn Larrieu

Chairperson's Report: Mr. Gregory presented Ms. Marilyn Larrieu with a certificate of appreciation for all her work on CODI; she has been a CODI member for 8 years and according to the CODI bylaws she must now relinquish her seat. Mr. Gregory also mentioned it was Ms. Hyams' birthday earlier in the week and brought in cupcakes to celebrate. Mr. Gregory attended the Riders meeting where they mostly spoke about the integrated fare system. The Riders Guide was also discussed at the meeting. He also reported that a Taxi ordinance passed which allows accessible taxis in the underserved area to come out of their area to pick up passengers through out the County in need of a wheelchair accessible taxi. Mr. Gregory had asked Consumer Services if they would be able to keep statistics on wheelchair accessible taxi requests. He attended a long range transportation plan public meeting which was held in Westchester where he spoke about the need for reliable bus announcement and the need for accessible bus stops. He was on a conference call with the Governor's Commission on Disability's Employment Committee. They are developing a website as a resource and data job bank. Mr. Gregory felt there were employment issues that were not being addressed. He said that he had gone to an Autism Speaks event at Crandon Park and found there were access issues. He had emailed Lucy Binhack who is the ADA Coordinator for the Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation.

ACCESS/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: Ms. Valkema reported that there were two Access/Transportation meetings. The committee spent over 5 hours reviewing the Riders Guide. Mr. Gregory said that he would like to have the recommendations to Rita Kane, the Manager of Para-transit Operations, by March 6th. The Access/ Transportation committee will then meet with her and decide which issues are "deal breakers." He will bring this information to the next CODI meeting. Mr. Edwards had a concern about the issue of time a person can spend in a vehicle. He thought that Transit might be creating rules that may or may not be legal. Another issue is the ¾ mile corridor. Also throughout the guide, sometimes it says door to door service and other time says curb to curb service. Mr. Fulton mentioned the appeal process and wondered how many people where involved in the process of an appeal. Someone asked if para-transit had justified the proposed change in hours of the reservation center. Ms. Valkema mentioned that there wasn't a TTY number given in the guide. Mr. Granda said that it is better to give the 711 number since most individuals who are deaf don't use TTY's any more. Mr. Edwards thought that the guide seemed to be written by the providers and that it is the County that is the entity over the providers. Mr. Gregory asked Mr. Edwards to work with him by pointing out the language that Mr. Edwards felt was not appropriate.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Mr. Gregory reported that two names had been approved by the membership committee and two more were waiting to be approved. However, since an advisory board needs to be representative of the community, he felt that CODI should be recruiting females; by the later part of this year, CODI will only have one woman as a member.

Motion made by Ronald Fulton and seconded by John Miller to suspend referring approved CODI applicant to commissioners until a female has been appointed to CODI by a commissioner. Vote: District 1 -John Miller yes-District 2 Dr. Manoel Olivera yes- District 3 Jose Granda yes- District 5 Jose Martinez no- District 6 Marilyn Larrieu yes - District 7 Jackson David yes- District 9 Ronald Fulton yes- District 10 Dr. Sam Kohlenberg yes - District 11Denise Valkema yes. Motion Passed

Old Business: Mr. Gregory asked for approval to send a letter to Shalley Jones- Horn the new director of the Office of Community & Economic Development.

Motion made by Denise Valkema and seconded by Ronald Fulton to send a letter to Ms. Jones- Horn welcoming her to her new position and emphasizing the Single Family Rehab mod program for people with disabilities as a high priority for CODI. Vote: District 1 –John Miller yes-District 2 Dr. Manoel Olivera yes- District 3 Jose Granda yes- District 5 Jose Martinez yes- District 6 Marilyn Larrieu yes – District 7 Jackson David yes- District 9 Ronald Fulton yes- District 10 Dr. Sam Kohlenberg yes – District 11Denise Valkema yes. Motion Passed

Mr. Gregory spoke about the Baseball stadium and said that there was no use in discussing this until there was dedicated funding for the building of the stadium. Mr. Edwards mentioned that the American Council of the Blind has put together a taskforce to make recommendations for greater access to people who are blind or visually impaired. He will work with Damian Gregory to give him the recommendations if and when a stadium is funded.

Ilene Hyams spoke briefly about the Public Work Initiative. She has sent out another email requesting people with disabilities who are having trouble getting to and from an area because of a broken sidewalk, lack of curb cut, or lack of a connector to please let her know so she can pass this on to Public Works. This is limited funding and only for people who are having an access issue with existing sidewalks in unincorporated Dade or a County maintained road. She also reported that she is still waiting for the draft of the updated CODI website.

New Business: Heidi Johnson Wright, Director of the Office of ADA Coordination, gave an update from the ADA office. The office is doing plans review on all county construction projects. They will be adding an ADA inspection function to the plans review function and both will be required on all county projects. The office has two interns that will be updating the actual barrier removal list making sure that buildings are still part of the county and have need for barrier removal. The office will be sending out 2008 reimbursements summaries to the municipalities for the parking fine program. The employment initiative which is still in the planning stages has the office working with Rochester Institute of Technology; this school has a large engineering program for people who are deaf. The office is working with the University of Miami's Architecture program in a project called Freedom By Design. The office is helping the students to identify people who will benefit from small access projects in their home. Right now they are in the process of interviewing applicants. She has met with several departments to go over their barrier removal list. The Administrative Order 10-10 has been reissued and it is more streamlined and specific. This AO explains the various responsibilities of the ADA Office and ADA Coordinators.

Ms. Johnson-Wright also mentioned that the County has developed a social networking initiative and she is planning to have the ADA office participate. Ms. Johnson-Wright reported that Daniel Howe will be the new ADA Project Administrator for the office of ADA.

Mr. Wood brought up the grievance policy and asked about the grievance that Mr. Brennan had submitted to the ADA office. Ms. Johnson-Wright explained the grievance procedures. The procedure and form are on the website. Mr. Gregory asked Ms. Johnson-Wright to update CODI on the grievances that the office receives; she thought that she could do that but would have to check with the County's attorneys.

Mr. Gregory asked that on the next agenda New Business is before Old Business.

He mentioned committee assignments and he has only gotten two people to committee to the various committees. He encouraged all members and non-members to join a committee.

Damian Gregory asked that he be allowed to compose correspondence encouraging the County Commission to not allow the removal of the local option of parking at the Airport. The State is looking

into removing the local option which ,means the Airport and Seaport may start to charge people with disable placards a parking fee.

Motion was made by John Miller and seconded by Jackson David to write a letter to the County Commission encouraging them to keep the local option. Vote: District 1 –John Miller yes-District 2 Dr. Manoel Olivera no- District 3 Jose Granda yes- District 5 Jose Martinez no- District 6 Marilyn Larrieu yes – District 7 Jackson David yes- District 9 Ronald Fulton yes- District 10 Dr. Sam Kohlenberg yes – District 11 Denise Valkema yes. Motion Passed

Mr. Gregory asked that he be allowed to write to Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation concerning accessibility at the Autism Now Walk. **Motion made by Ron Fulton and seconded by John Miller to have the Chairperson write a letter to Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation stating CODI's concern of the lack of access at the Autism Now Walk held at Crandon Park.** Mr. Gregory asked if any one didn't support the motion; since no one raised their hand it was passed by acclamation.

Ilene Hyams asked those present to pick up the IRS pamphlets and information concerning the Leisure Access Foundation. This is a non-profit foundation created in 1991 to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in quality leisure programs. Much of the funding is received by Park employees through United Way contributions.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.